

## Claims

- [c1] A method for portable computer data protection, comprising:
  - (a) providing a portable memory drive having a static register with a value stored therein and a common interface for connection to, and communication with, a computer system having storage therein; and
  - (b) managing operation of said portable memory drive through a data management program which include the substeps of:
    - (b)(i) storing in said computer system said value contained in said static register; and
    - (b)(ii) upon a loss of communication between said memory drive and said computer system, and upon the subsequent recommunication there between, copying said value from said computer system to said static register.
- [c2] The method for portable computer data protection of claim 1, wherein said portable memory drive further comprises an energy storage device contained within said portable memory device.
- [c3] The method for portable computer data protection of claim 1, wherein said static register values are stored in random access memory in said computer system.
- [c4] The method for portable computer data protection of claim 1, wherein said static register values are stored on a hard drive in said computer system.
- [c5] The method for computer data protection of claim 1, wherein said common interface comprises a universal serial bus.
- [c6] The computer data protection method of claim 1, wherein said common interface is an IEEE-1394 bus.
- [c7] A portable data storage system comprising:
  - a portable mass storage device having a common interface for connection to a computer system and a static register;
  - an energy storage device in electrical communication with said static register such that said static register will retain a last stored value throughout a transient disconnection of said common interface; and

a computer program stored on a storage media for execution by said computer system such that upon reconnection of said common interface after said transient disconnection, the said portable mass storage device will resume normal operation without the intervention of a computer operator.

[c8] The portable data storage system of claim 7, wherein upon detecting a transient disconnection, said computer program provides a warning notification wherein said computer operator is prompted to reconnect said mass storage device.

[c9] The portable data storage system of claim 7, wherein said common interface comprises a universal serial bus.

[c10] The portable data storage system of claim 7, wherein said common interface comprises an IEEE-1394 bus.

[c11] The portable data storage system of claim 7, wherein said computer system includes memory and a copy of data written to said portable mass storage device is also written to said memory.

[c12] The portable data storage system of claim 11, wherein said memory comprises random access memory.

[c13] The portable data storage system of claim 11, wherein said memory comprises a hard disk.

[c14] The portable data storage system of claim 11, wherein said computer program is configured to compare the data stored in said portable mass storage device with the data stored in said memory and to copy data from said memory to said mass storage device to correct any differences.

[c15] A portable data storage system comprising:  
a computer system having memory;  
a portable mass storage device having a common interface for connection to said computer system and a static register; and  
a computer program stored on a storage media for execution by said computer system such that data written to said portable mass storage device is first written to said memory such that said computer program will direct said

program to compare data stored in said memory to data stored in said portable mass storage device and correct the data stored in said portable mass storage device when a difference is found.

[c16] The portable data storage system of claim 15, wherein said common interface comprises a universal serial bus.

[c17] The portable data storage system of claim 15, wherein said common interface comprises an IEEE-1394 bus.

[c18] A connection error recovery system comprising:  
an external computer device having a common interface for connection to a computer system and a static register;  
an energy storage device in electrical communication with said static register such that said static register will retain a last stored value throughout a transient disconnection of said common interface; and  
a computer program stored on a storage media for execution by said computer system such that upon reconnection of said common interface after said transient disconnection, the said external computer device will immediately resume normal operation without the intervention of a computer operator.